

EXPECTS GREAT ALLIED OFFENSIVE

London Public Sees Significance in Recent Statements and Actions.

SERIOUS MISTAKE SEEN IN GERMANIC STRATEGY

Withdrawal of Strong Forces From Eastern Front Assures Russian Success, Is Belief.

LONDON, June 16.—Significance is attached to a sentence embodied in a semi-official French communication received in London yesterday, inasmuch as it seems to draw the attention of the public to what is considered the serious failure of Germany's recent strategy.

"It seems since the Vaux affair," the sentence reads, "that the Germans fronting Verdun are maintaining an attitude of expectation in view of the menace of events which they feel are becoming increasingly imminent."

This statement generally is interpreted, in the light of public expectation, that the time is rapidly approaching for an important entente allied offensive.

Serious Mistake Is Seen.

The view is held in London that Germany made a serious mistake in strategy when she permitted Austria to withdraw half of her effective from the Russian front for the operations against Italy, after having brought her own reserves from the Russian front to Verdun, which apparently has had the result of enabling Russia to make a surprisingly successful drive in Galicia and Volhynia.

It is further considered that the recent naval battle deprived Germany temporarily of the means for prosecuting a combined military and naval offensive in the Riga region and thus counteracting the Russian drive, which now is expected to go on to fresh successes, as it is believed it will be extremely difficult to reinforce the Teutonic allies on the Russian front.

Reading yesterday's French semi-official communication in connection with the recent presence of Gen. Joffre and the French ministers in London and Premier Asquith's announcement on Wednesday of the proffered British help to the French, the public is looking forward to coming events with curiosity and confidence.

Trying to Conceal Truth.

According to reports received in London the German and Austrian governments are making desperate efforts to conceal the truth about the Russian drive from their people. The belief prevails here that weeks must elapse before the Austrians are able to withdraw forces from the Italian front for the defense of Lemberg, and that it may then be too late.

According to special dispatches from Petrograd the Russians are withdrawing their strength on the eastern front and are driving hard westward on both flanks. It is believed in Petrograd, according to these dispatches, that the further development of Brusilov's victory will depend largely on the progress of Russia's western allies' general strategic plans.

Activity More Co-Ordinated.

The entente allies now are all in touch by wireless and their co-ordination in strategy has reached a point never before achieved in the course of the war.

While the Germans appear to be making further progress on the western front, an interesting review comes from British headquarters in France tonight. It is to the effect that the recent battle in which the Canadians distinguished themselves is no longer considered as the opening of the third battle of Ypres. It adds that there is now very clear that there is no great German concentration on the front of Ypres and that the pressure is in the nature of a considerable infantry offensive is contemplated. In fact, the review says, "there was no idea of 'Verdun tactics' in this region."

TELL OF LAST MOMENTS ON KITCHENER'S SHIP

LONDON, June 16.—Details of some of the incidents on board the British cruiser Hampshire just before she sank off the Orkneys last week, causing the death of Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, among many others, are given in an official statement just issued, based on statements by the dozen survivors of the cruiser who were washed ashore on a raft.

"From the report of the twelve survivors of the Hampshire," says the statement, "the following conclusions were reached:

"As the men were going to their stations before abandoning the ship, Lord Kitchener, accompanied by a naval officer, appeared. The latter said: 'Make way for Lord Kitchener.' Both ascended to the quarter deck. Subsequently four military officers were seen there, walking aft on the port side.

Asked to Enter Boat.

"The captain called Lord Kitchener to the fore bridge near where the captain's boat was hoisted. The captain also called Lord Kitchener to enter the boat. It is unknown if Lord Kitchener entered it or what happened to any boat.

"The Hampshire was proceeding along the west coast of the Orkneys. A heavy gale was blowing and seas were breaking over the ship, which ceased to be seen by the boats. Between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. the vessel struck a mine and began at once to settle by the bows, heeling over to starboard before she finally went down about fifteen minutes after.

"Orders were given by the captain for all hands to go to their established stations for abandoning ship. Some of the hatches were opened and the ship's company went quickly to their stations. Efforts were made without success to lower some of the boats. One of them was broken in half, and its occupants were thrown into the water.

But Few Reached Safety.

"Large numbers of the crew used life-saving belts and waist coats, which proved effective in keeping them afloat. Three rafts were safely launched, and with about fifty to seventy men on each got clear. It was daylight up to about 11. Those rafts with these large numbers of men got away in one case out of over seventy men aboard only six survived. The survivors all report that the men gradually dropped off, even died aboard the rafts from exhaustion and exposure to cold. Some of the crew must have perished in trying to land on the rocky coast after such a long exposure. Some died after landing."

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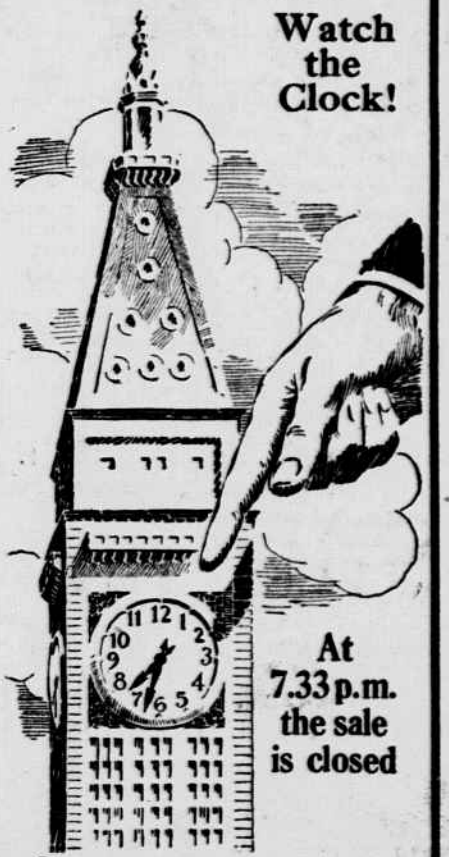
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